



DALLAS

MODERN WOMAN

In *Distinctly Modern Interiors*, her new book with Rizzoli, Emily Summers looks back on four decades of design.

By Rhonda Reinhart

Photography by Nikolas Koenig

In Emily Summers' childhood home—a modest Tudor in Kansas City—less was certainly not more. “I grew up in a home full of collections on every table and furniture for the furniture,” she says. In stark contrast to her early years, the Dallas-based interior designer and founder of Emily Summers Design Associates (emilysummers.com) has mastered the art of minimalism, a design style she embraced as an art history grad student at Southern Methodist University. “I studied the transitions in 20th-century design in Vienna, Brussels, Glasgow and Scandinavia, and, importantly, the Bauhaus,” she says. “Knoll and a few other contemporary lines were reproducing the furniture from these eras, and I was hooked.” In 1979, Summers launched her eponymous design firm, continuing to build on her love of modernism. “Modern architecture dictates a more minimal, thoughtful design approach,” she says. “I was thrilled to adopt a cleaner and more open aesthetic, and I was lucky enough to work on projects with great architects who designed open, clean spaces that change the way we live in our houses.” To celebrate her 40-year love affair with modern design, Summers has authored her first book: *Distinctly Modern Interiors* (\$50, Rizzoli), which debuts Feb. 12. Among the featured homes are the designer's personal residences in Dallas; Palm Springs, Calif.; and Colorado Springs, as well as several recent projects and ones that have never been published until now. Even though the ink is barely dry on *Distinctly Modern Interiors*, the in-demand designer is already looking ahead. “We currently have some very exciting projects in the works,” she says. “Maybe I should do another book.”